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AUTHOR Teske, Raymond, Jr.; Nelson, Bardin H.
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ABSTRACT

The development of a scale for measuring the interaction of Mexican Americans with Anglos (Anglo Interaction Index) was discussed. The scale was part of a larger investigation on status mobility among middle-class Mexican Americans in Texas. Data was collected in Waco (selected for pretesting), Austin, McAllen, and Lubbock. These communities were chosen primarily for their proximity to the Texas-Mexico border. The sample consisted of all Spanish surnamed males employed in these communities. Fourteen items which distinguished between interaction and non-interaction with Anglos were selected and dichotomized. The Kuder-Richardson formula to compute the coefficient of internal consistency was used to test scale reliability. The total scores on the Anglo Interaction Index were compared with the total scores on 2 scales used to measure interaction with Mexican Americans and identification with the Mexican American population. The data showed that (1) as interaction with Mexican Americans decreased, interaction with Anglos increased significantly and (2) as identification with the Mexican American population decreased, interaction with Anglos increased. Tabular data included the scale items, a comparison of means by community, and item analysis and intercorrelation. (NQ)

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ANGLO INTERACTION INDEX

Report Six

For Study Entitled

AN ANALYSIS OF STATUS MOBILITY PATTERNS AMONG MIDDLE-CLASS MEXICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS

Raymond Teske, Jr. and Bardin H. Nelson
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Texas A&M University

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Introduction. The purpose of this paper is to report the development of a scale designed to measure interaction of Mexican Americans with Anglos. The scale was developed as part of a larger investigation into status mobility patterns among middle-class Mexican Americans in Texas (See Teske and Nelson, 1972).

Sample. Briefly stated, the data employed in the development of the scale was collected in four Texas communities: Waco, Austin, McAllen, and Lubbock. Waco was initially selected for pretesting. Proximity to the Texas-Mexico border was the primary selection criterion for the remaining communities with McAllen being closest to the border, Austin approximately in the middle of the state, and Lubbock of greater distance from the border. A randomly ordered quota sample was collected. For complete details concerning the sampling procedures, sample parameters, reliability, and validity, the reader is referred to the paper "Two Scales for the Measurement of Mexican-American Identity" cited in the references (Teske and Nelson 1973).

Development of the Scales. Items used in construction of the scales were abstracted from the interview schedule employed in the broader investigation. Items were selected which distinguished clearly between interaction with Anglos and non-interaction with Anglos. Subsequently, items were dichotomized

rather than placed on a continuum. Fourteen items met this criterion (See Table 1).

[Table 1 About Here]

Scale Reliability. The Kuder-Richardson formula was used to compute the coefficient of internal consistency (Summers, 1970:88-89). With data from the four communities combined, N=151, the reliability coefficient was .6707. Point-biserial correlations were also computed and are reported in Table 2. With the data from the four communities combined the point-biserial correlation of each of the items--with one exception--exceeded .264, the .0005 level of significance for an N of 151. The exception, Item 3, did exceed .159, the .025 level of significance. The completed scale, then, consists of fourteen dichotomous items. A value of one on each item indicates strong interaction with Anglos. A value of zero indicates little or no interaction with Anglos. Possible total scores range from 00 to 14, with the higher scores indicating greater interaction with Anglos.

Comparison with Mexican-American Interaction and Identity Scales. Total scores on the Anglo Interaction Index were then compared with total scores on two previously developed scales designed to measure interaction with Mexican Americans and identification with the Mexican-American population (See Teske and Nelson, 1973). Possible total scores on the Mexican-American

Interaction Index and the Mexican-American Identity Index range from 19 to 95 and from 16 to 80 respectively. The higher the score the less the interaction or identification and, conversely, the lower the score the greater the interaction or identification. The observed correlation coefficient between total scores on the Anglo Interaction Index and the Mexican-American Interaction Index was .5908, with $P < .0005$. The observed correlation coefficient between total scores on the Anglo Interaction Index and the Mexican-American Identity Index was .1594, with $P < .025$ (See Table 3).

[Table 3 About Here]

The data suggest, then, that as interaction with Mexican Americans decreases, a significant increase in interaction with Anglos obtains. Similarly, though not as significantly, as identification with the Mexican-American population decreases, interaction with Anglos increases. Furthermore, plotting of the means for total scores on the Mexican-American Interaction Index and possible total scores on Anglo Interaction Index indicated that the relationship is linear.

Multiple regression was also introduced to compare the combined effect of total interaction with Mexican Americans and identification with the Mexican-American population on interaction with Anglos. The computed R was .6067, with $P < .0001$ ($F=43.111$, d.f.=2,148).

Comparison Of Means By Community. Analysis of variance revealed a significant difference between the means of the four communities, with $P < .001$ (See Table 4). The data indicate that the least interaction with Anglos is found in McAllen, and the greatest interaction with Anglos is found in Waco. Although the Waco data may be somewhat biased since five Mexican Americans very active in the Mexican-American community assisted with the project and were not interviewed. However, other data suggests that inclusion of these individuals would not have altered these findings significantly. The data also indicate that there is greater interaction with Anglos in Austin and Lubbock than in McAllen.

REFERENCES

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Teske, Raymond, Jr., and Bardin H. Nelson
1971 "Status Mobility Patterns Among Middle-Class Mexican Americans in Texas: A Theoretical Orientation. Unpublished paper presented at the Rural Sociological Society Meetings, Denver.

Teske, Raymond, Jr., and Bardin H. Nelson
1973 "Two Scales for the Measurement of Mexican-American Identity." Unpublished paper presented at the Southwestern Sociological Association Meetings, Dallas.

TABLE 1

ANGLO INTERACTION INDEX: SCALE ITEMS*

Item 1	Subject:	Close friends of respondent.
	Phrasing:	List the specific occupation (not name) of two close friends. Are these individuals Spanish-surname, Anglo, other? (Identify other).
	Scoring:	(1) At least one Anglo friend listed, (0) No Anglo friends listed.
Item 2	Subject:	Current church membership and/or attendance.
	Phrasing:	Combination of several items to arrive at the following information.
	Scoring:	(1) Attends predominantly Anglo church, (0) Attends a church which is not predominantly Anglo, or does not attend church.
Item 3	Subject:	Membership in social or fraternal organizations.
	Phrasing:	Respondent was asked to list any social or fraternal organization of which he is a member and to indicate the ethnic make-up of each organization.
	Scoring:	(1) Member of at least one predominantly Anglo social or fraternal organization, (0) Not a member of a predominantly Anglo social or fraternal organization.
Item 4	Subject:	Membership in business, professional, or other organization.
	Phrasing:	Respondent was asked to list any business, professional, or other organization of which he is a member and to indicate the ethnic make-up of each organization.
	Scoring:	Same as item 3.

Table 1 continued

Item 5	Subject:	Spanish language usage with friends.
Item 6	Subject:	Spanish language usage at social gatherings.
Item 7	Subject:	Spanish language usage in public.
	Phrasing:	Indicate the degree to which you use Spanish in each of the situations listed below by placing the corresponding number from the choices provided. (Choices listed: always, most of the time, occasionally, seldom, never.)
	Scoring:	(1) Seldom or never, (0) Always, most of the time, or occasionally.
Item 8	Subject:	Entertaining, or visiting with, Anglos in home.
	Phrasing:	About how often do you entertain (visit with) the following people in your home: ... Anglos?
	Scoring:	(1) Very often (at least once a month) or often (several times a year). (0) Seldom (once or twice a year), hardly ever (less than once a year), or never.
Item 9	Subject:	Visiting in homes of Anglos.
	Phrasing:	About how often do you visit in the homes of the following: ... Anglos?
	Scoring:	Same as Item 8.
Item 10	Subject:	Marital status.
	Phrasing:	Data completed by interviewer.
	Scoring:	(1) Wife Anglo, (0) Wife Mexican-American or not married (includes other).
Item 11	Subject:	Respondents place of residence.
	Phrasing:	Data completed by interviewer.
	Scoring:	(1) Predominantly Anglo neighborhood, (0) Not predominantly Anglo neighborhood (includes about same proportion of Anglos and Mexican Americans--and/or Negroes).
Item 12	Subject:	Entertaining (or visiting with) neighbors in home.
	Phrasing:	Combination of several items. See Items 8 and 11 above.
	Scoring:	(1) Lives in predominantly Anglo neighborhood, entertains (or visits with) neighbors in home frequently or very often. (0) ... occasionally, seldom, or never (or, does not live in

Table 1 continued

		predominantly Anglo neighborhood).
Item 13	Subject:	Visiting in homes of neighbors.
	Phrasing:	Combination of several items. See Items 9 and 11 above.
	Scoring:	Same as Item 12.
Item 14	Subject:	Reference to acceptance by Anglos.
	Phrasing:	Which of the following reference groups do you identify with most? (a) The Mexican-American population, (b) The non-Spanish-surname population. Which of the following best describes this group. ... the other group's reaction to you? (1) Definitely accepts me as a member, (1) Seems to accept me as a member, (3) Uncertain, (4) Does not seem to accept me as a member, (5) Definitely does not accept me as a member. (Scoring of this item taken from reference to b.)
	Scoring:	(1) Definitely accepts me as a member (i.e., the non-Spanish-surname population). (0) All other responses.

*Numerals in parentheses indicate score assigned for the response which follows.

TABLE 2

ANGLO INTERACTION INDEX: ITEM ANALYSIS*

Item Number	Waco N=32	Austin N=151	McAllen N=41	Lubbock N=27	Four Communities Combined N=151
1	.497	.299	.401	.593	.441
2	.501	.274	.322	.378	.386
3	.352	.095	.237	.385	.178
4	.003	.456	.361	.599	.350
5	.044	.572	.367	.714	.464
6	.329	.430	.496	.760	.539
7	.429	.333	.234	.521	.437
8	.712	.600	.660	.318	.565
9	.439	.535	.475	.374	.401
10	.466	.391	.594	.557	.476
11	.534	.710	.276	.465	.584
12	.494	.492	.392	.270	.441
13	.602	.499	.392	.503	.518
14	.420	.293	.315	.620	.329

*Point-biserial correlations between items and the scale score.

TABLE 3

INTERCORRELATION ANALYSIS OF
THREE SCALES

	Mexican-American Interaction	Mexican-American Identity	Anglo Interaction
Mexican-American Interaction	1.0000		
Mexican-American Identity	.4754	1.0000	
Anglo Interaction	.5908	.1594	1.0000

N=151; R=.5908, P<.0005; R=.1594, P<.025

TABLE 4

COMPARISON OF MEAN SCORES ON ANGLO INTERACTION INDEX BY COMMUNITY*

	Waco	Austin	McAllen	Lubbock
Mean	6.218	5.294	3.707	5.222

*Analysis of variance. F=5.474; d.f.=3,147; P<.0017.